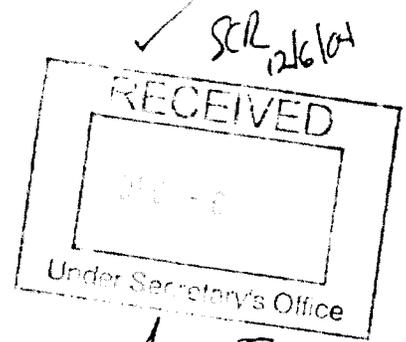




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November 10, 2004

William Douros, Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Subject: Sanctuary Advisory Committee Member Appointments,

*Dear Admiral -
Please feel free to contact our
Farm Bureau office if you have any
questions about this letter.
acting member here.
DBJ*

Dear Mr. Douros,

Monterey County Farm Bureau respectfully requests that the AMBAG Board of Directors carefully consider the message being sent to NOAA. Stakeholder groups are clearly the appropriate bodies to have consistent input to the appointments that represent them on the Sanctuary Advisory Committee (SAC). The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a nationally recognized and very well acknowledged entity within the agricultural community. Monterey County Farm Bureau, is a charter member of the Agricultural Water Quality Coalition (formerly the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus). This body has representation from six counties which drain into the Marine Sanctuary. We have worked closely with individuals at the Sanctuary such as Holly Price and look forward to continued collaborations with the Sanctuary to ensure that agriculture does its part to protect these waters.

It is our grave concern however that the appointment process to the SAC is not as democratic and effective as it might be. Our current representative, Kirk Schmidt, was strongly supported by the Farm Bureau. But we strongly suggest that a more representative process be put in place to ensure a sustainable future for the important work of the Sanctuary within our community.

We therefore have two very specific recommendations for your consideration and inclusion in any communication to NOAA. Please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Bob Perkins or our Environmental Resources Coordinator, Traci Roberts for any clarifications of these recommendations.

We concur with several of the options outlined in the October 13, 2004 memo from the AMBAG Executive Director for the agriculture seat, with some modification.

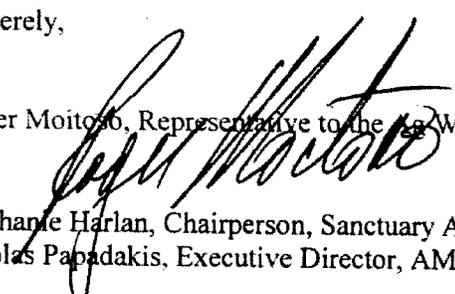
- a. Status Quo - this is not acceptable
- b. Enhanced outreach - we strongly support this in combination with a different process.
- c. Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provide for representations of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation.
- d. Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus makes recommendations for member and alternative to the Sanctuary Superintendent

- e. **Other - Our proposal:** Rather than the members of the stakeholder group attending the "SAC recommendation subcommittee" to voice their recommendation(s) for candidates, we propose that a permanent "selection committee" be formed by the representative of each stakeholder group on the SAC. For example, Kirk Schmidt and Tim Frahm, as current representatives, would ask members of the agricultural community and their organizations to recruit potential representatives and attend a meeting to review the applicants and make recommendations for the appointment.

Our previous proposal was stated as letter (d) above, however, we realize that the Coalition is only one of many agricultural entities within the watershed areas that drain to the Monterey Bay.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Roger Moitoso, Representative to the  Water Quality Coalition

CC: Stephanie Harlan, Chairperson, Sanctuary Advisory Committee
Nicolas Papadakis, Executive Director, AMBAG